**Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Council**

Minutes of the Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Council Meeting held at the Old School House, Dalchreichart on Wednesday 28th September 2016 @ 7.30 p.m.

**Members Present:**

Carol Pritchard - Chairperson (CP)

Iain MacKnocher - Vice-Chair (IM)

Johnny MacDonald - Treasurer (JM)

Helen Clay (HC)

Peter Yair (PY)

Steven Smith (SS)

Rachel Hayes (RH)

**Apologies:**

Deirdre MacKinnon - Secretary (DM)

Margaret Davidson - Councillor (MD)

**Note taker:** Samantha Cornelius

1. **Previous Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting on Thursday 1st September 2016 were agreed to be an accurate and true reflection. Proposed by IM and seconded by RH.

1. **Matters Arising**

**Trees for Life:**  The event unfortunately clashed with various other school events however the event was well attended in Invergarry. Invitations remain for anyone who would like to plant a tree in the area or alternatively have one in their own garden to contact treesforlife.org.uk.

**Shooting Club**: CP to arrange an early evening/afternoon visit to the site.

**Invermoriston Playing Field:**  No update.

**Turning Space - Oich Road:** CP to write to tour buses about parking in the turning space and ask them to park elsewhere.

**Road Closure - A887 West of Torgoyle Bridge:** Revised dates for road closure 23 Oct - 4 Nov 16.

**Road Closure - A82 South of Fort Augustus:** Road to be closed (with diversion) from 21.00 hrs to 06.00 hrs from Tuesday 4th to Friday 6th October due to re-surfacing. Concern that no prior notice was received by the CC.

**Canal Side Footways:** No update was provided by The Highland Council (THC), when pursued CP was advised that due to poor weather the re-surfacing didn’t take place as planned. An e-mail would be issued on 3rd October if able to undertake later that week. CP to ask THC to contact affected businesses direct as opposed to only advising the CC.

**Planning Meeting:** Nicola Drummond and MD attended the meeting at Dalchreichart. The main topic was housing issues and that planning applications when refused by planning officers are then overturned on appeal.

1. **Police Report**

PC N111 Mathieson provided a verbal update of the monthly report. The Midgi-Death event took place without incident on 24th September. The cash machine at the garage in Fort Augustus was once again subject to a card reading fraud.

RH and PY reiterated concerns from previous meeting regarding tour buses stopping on the A887 to allow passengers to alight and take photographs opposite the Redburn Café causing an obstruction and danger. PC Mathieson to clarify position with PC McGill.

1. **Treasurer’s Report**

There was no statement for August as the bank does not issue a statement if there is no movement on the account. The last available balance as at 29 Jul was £5,576.52. A cheque has been received from ETAPE which when banked this week will bring the balance to £6,076.52.

1. **Community Amenity Issues**

Fort Augustus Car Park: Car park now free. One machine remains uncovered however it will not accept coins if people attempt to use it. To raise with MD why car park revenue goes back to the Council and where is it spent?

Toilet Charges: Highland Council are doing a consultation on their web site about charging for use of public toilets in the Highlands.

Telephone Box at Torgoyle: 42 days to advise planners if the community wish to keep the phone box, which currently cannot be used as all component parts have been removed. CP to write to the Council saying the phone box needs to work as there is no mobile signal there and residents are disturbed regularly by road users who end up in the ditch due to the poor condition of the road there.

Jenkins Park: Resident to be advised that issue with bonfires is for the individual to attempt to resolve in the first instance.

Passing Places: A887 at Invermoriston the overgrowth has obscured sight lines to road signs and street lighting due to overgrown hedges. The gorse hanging over the church wall remains an issue preventing clear line of sight and potential for traffic incidents.

Abbey Gardens: Massive pot hole by drain on Fort William road by the shop, the drain itself also appears to be clogged.

A82: In bad weather the drainage on A82 is at best poor and at worst dangerous. CP to report to BEAR Scotland.

Auchterawe Road: JM raised issue of badly damaged verges at Auchterawe Liaison Group meeting on 20th September. Neil Anderson (SSE) advised that incident should be reported to THC who would then contact SSE.

1. **Renewable Energy Projects**

**Consented Projects:**

Beinneun Windfarm: 25 turbines 75 - 85MW. CP to arrange a meeting between the Community Company, Beinneun and the Community Council.

Bhlaraidh Windfarm: 108MW. Liaison group met w/c 19th September and issue about lorries turning across verges raised. Residents are still not connected onto mains water although SSE progressing. Turbines due to arrive this week, two on 30th September and one on 1st October. The blades are coming from Kyle and the transformers and towers are coming from Inverness over the next five weeks. Next meeting arranged for 20th October.

Stronelairg Windfarm: Liaison group to resume on 6th October at Fort Augustus Village Hall at 7.00p.m. The cycle lane planning has been submitted to THC. The plan for the site will be revealed at that time.

Auchterawe Substation: Two consultations have been started one to extend the site and one to reinforce the connection between Skye and the sub-station. Closing date for comments is 11th November. Environmental Health Officer unable to attend the last meeting, CP to arrange separate meeting.

Skye Tee Line: No update.

**Non-consented projects:**

Millennium Windfarm: No update.

Dell Windfarm: No update.

Culachy Project: No update.

Tomchrasky Windfarm: Full Environmental Application to be submitted. CP to contact Project Manager.

1. **Planning & Licensing**
   1. Binnilidh Mhor, Dalchreichart - 16/03294/FUL: Application withdrawn.
   2. Binnilidh Mhor, Dalchreichart - 16/04354/FUL: Change of use of house to B&B (4 rooms), erection of garage and flat, new storage shed. Same concerns apply: water, electricity, infrastructure (road) on other residents.
   3. Glenmoriston Arms Hotel - 16/02776/FUL: Installation of Bio Mass CHP unit running in-line with existing Biomass Boiler. See below.
2. **Correspondence**

Letter received from Glenmoriston Arms Hotel raising issue with comments made by CC when considering the previous application 15/03981/FUL to install a Biogas CHP and outlining details of intended system. CP stood down from Chair due to a conflict of interest. After discussion, IM acting Chair confirmed that more information would be required before the CC could take a view. Questions raised include: access, noise, clarification of size, affect if any on adjacent properties, suitability and distance from other residences.

A letter of thanks was received from Jill Skeoch.

A letter of thanks was received from the Fort Augustus Sheepdog Trial holders. The event was held on 27 August and the following monies were raised for charities and good causes: £550 for Cancer Research, £100 for Senior Citizens, £100 Fort Augustus Children’s Christmas Parties.

1. **AOB**

Defibrillator training in Fort Augustus and Dalchreichart - dates have yet to be confirmed and posters will then be displayed. The machines will probably be installed in January after training has been undertaken.

Christmas Lights: requirement to set up a Christmas Light fund to work on raising funds for lights for Christmas 2017.

The meeting was then closed. The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 26th October at the Memorial Hall, Fort Augustus at 7.30 p.m.